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Borough of Lancaster.

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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1925.

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Lancaster :

BEELEY BROS., PRINTERS, PENNY STREET.

1926.







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TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922, I beg to present to you my Thirteenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of the Borough and Port of Lancaster.

This is a Survey Report dealing with the five years, 1921 to 1925, and has been prepared on the lines indicated in Circular 648 of the Ministry of Health.

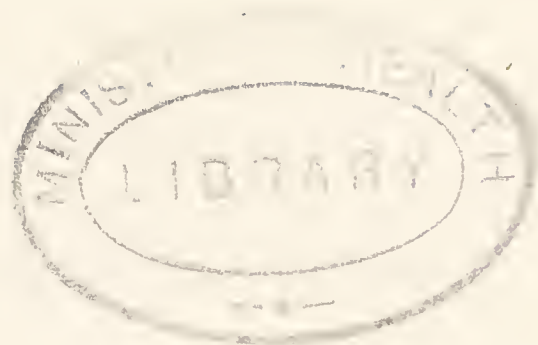
I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. BUCHANAN.

15th June, 1926.



## Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

The Borough of Lancaster is situated on the tidal portion of the River Lune, about seven miles from Sunderland Point where the river enters the sea.

It is about twenty miles north of Preston and seventy miles south of Carlisle; the coast is nearest at Scalestone Point in Morecambe Bay, three miles N.-W. of the Borough. Its greatest length, from north to south, is three and a half miles, the greatest breadth is three miles. The area is **3,482 acres**.

From the Williamson Park, which is situated to the S.-E. of the Borough about 355 feet above sea level, the land slopes rapidly towards the north-west, north and north-east until it merges into low-lying ground on either bank of the River Lune. The continuity of the slope in the north-western direction is broken near the river by two elevations, Cannon Hill and Castle Hill at the northern base of which is St. George's Quay.

Between Lancaster and the Coast the greater part of the land is at sea level and is used for grazing purposes.

The district is divided into eight wards, of which one (Skerton) lies on the north side of the river.

Contiguous Sanitary Districts are the Borough of Morecambe and the Lancaster and Lunesdale Rural Districts.

The following table shews the acreage, population and density of population of the various wards:—

Ward.	Area in Acres	Popu- lation in 1911	1921			
			Total Popu- lation	Males	Fe- males	Per- sons per Acre
Bulk ... ..	661	2533	2409	1204	1205	3·6
Castle ... ..	346	3390	3253	1585	1668	9·4
John O'Gaunt ... ..	128	5728	5841	2822	3019	45·6
Park ... ..	341	6714	6542	3009	3533	19·2
Queen's ... ..	260	4946	4748	2104	2644	18·3
St. Anne's ... ..	52	4050	3715	<del>1811</del> 1816	1897	71·4
Scotforth ... ..	878	7917	7629	3551	4078	8·7
Skerton ... ..	816	6140	6075	2911	3164	7·4
BOROUGH ... ..	3482	41410	40212	19004	21208	11·5

### Institutions in Wards.

*Castle.*—The Fever Hospital (Luneside Sanatorium).

*John o'Gaunt.*—Military Barracks.

*Park.*—County Mental Hospital, Union Workhouse and Children's Home.

*Scotforth.*—Royal Albert Institution, Ripley Hospital, Royal Infirmary, and Nazareth House.



The number of inhabited houses (Census 1921) was 8,353, and the number of families, 8,628.

The rateable value is £218,470. The sum represented by a penny rate is £910.

### **Railways and Roads.**

The Borough is served by two railways. The L.M.S. main line traverses the district from north to south, with branches to Morecambe and Glasson Dock, while the Midland branch of the same Company passes from east to west through the town to Morecambe and Heysham, linking it up with Leeds, Bradford, the East Coast and Ireland.

The main road from Preston to Carlisle passes through the centre of the town; a branch, along the Lune Valley, leads to Hornby and Yorkshire.

In recent years the surrounding villages and hamlets have been brought into communication with Lancaster by an extensive bus service.

The Lancaster Canal provides facilities for water transport with Kendal, Glasson Dock and Preston.

Raw materials are also brought into the district by vessels passing up the Lune and discharging at Glasson Dock or in the Borough.

### **Geology.**

The south and south-eastern parts of the Borough are on millstone grit, with a few patches of new red sandstone. The land adjoining the banks of the Lune is mainly alluvium.

### **Meteorology.**

The position of the Borough tends to make the climate equable: extremes of heat and cold are rare. In the southern and more elevated part of the town the air is bracing. The prevailing wind is from the south-west, and to it the greater portion of the district is exposed. Sunshine is considerably lessened by the pollution of the atmosphere by industrial and domestic smoke.

At the Greg Observatory, built in 1892 and maintained by the Corporation in Williamson Park, readings are taken daily.

Mr. Neville Holden, F.R. Met. S., has kindly supplied the following table giving particulars of rainfall, sunshine, etc., for the past five years :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Mean barometric pressure (corrected) ...	30·029	29·908	29·813	29·829	29·828
Hours of bright sunshine ...	1580	1372	1288	1289	1488
Sunless days ...	91	81	77	82	84
Rainfall (in inches) ...	41·25	45·37	53·68	47·59	40·15
Wet days ...	194	213	245	230	203
Mean shade temperature, 9 a.m. ...	50·2	47·1	47·7	48·4	48·3
Mean humidity of the air ...	80	82	83	83	81

### Industries and Occupations.

The chief manufactures of the town are those of linoleum, oil-cloth, American baize and Morocco leather; cotton weaving, mat-making, furniture making, a chemical works, an iron foundry and a dyeworks are other industries which give employment to considerable numbers.

Much of the labour is unskilled, and during the past five years the workers have not been on full-time. Consequently, the low wages earned by unskilled labour have been further curtailed. Owing to this, and to the amount of unemployment, a considerable



proportion of the working-class population lives below the line of proper nutrition, which fact probably accounts for the continued prevalence in the area of Tuberculosis, while the disease is diminishing elsewhere in the County.

The following table shews the extent to which necessitous families have ~~have~~ been assisted, also the cost of living index figure, the number of marriages and the average numbers of totally unemployed :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Variation in Cost of Living Index Figure above that for July, 1914 ... ..	165 to 99	92 to 80	78 to 77	79 to 81	80 to 77
Amount of Outdoor Poor Law Relief ...	£4,001	£6,692	£6,982	£6,851	£5,572
Meals supplied to School Children (Education Committee) ... ..	50,289	35,343	34,148	37,346	35,303
Dried Milk (lbs.) supplied to mothers & children (M.C.W. Committee)—					
Free... ..	5,324	6,234	6,072	8,325	8,614
At $\frac{1}{2}$ -cost ...	226	149	150	465	619
Number of Marriages	373	365	345	409	401
Average number of Totally Unemploy'd	1,111	1,044	1,081	756	772

### Statistics of Unemployment in Lancasier,

Supplied by the Manager of the Employment Exchange (Ministry of Labour).

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1921	Totally Unemployed 923	841	767	<sup>[1]</sup> 891	<sup>[1]</sup> 950	<sup>[1]</sup> 945	954	1196	1311	1360	1587	1610
	Short Time 700	3038	5003	4065	4192	4924	4819	246	2873	312	322	223
1922	Totally Unemployed 1721	1389	1337	<sup>[2]</sup> 1105	1024	855	791	617	658	851	<sup>[3]</sup> 1112	1074
	Short Time 219	184	294	197	142	181	161	110	93	76	31	24
1923	Totally Unemployed 1363	1263	1174	1063	1026	971	994	853	898	<sup>[4]</sup> 1069	1225	1076
	Short Time 2	...	...	...	46	45	65	71	64	510	40	56
1924	Totally Unemployed 1144	973	881	<sup>[5]</sup> 621	707	552	458	430	539	857	969	942
	Short Time 40	91	76	78	78	57	69	77	84	63	84	...
1925	Totally Unemployed 993	922	864	727	709	615	664	546	670	808	857	891
	Short Time ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(1) Coal Strike. (2) Beginning of Third Special Period of Benefit. (3) Beginning of Fourth Special Period of Benefit.  
 (4) Beginning of First Benefit Year. (5) Juveniles transferred to Local Education Authority, but figures included for purposes of comparison.

The Census (1921) returns shewing the **occupations** of the inhabitants are given below.

In some respects it is possible to compare the figures with those for 1911.

Male workers connected with agriculture have increased from 242 to 305, workers connected with electrical apparatus from 83 to 174, and workers in wood and furniture from 501 to 900.

The number of female domestic servants which was 1,296 in 1901 and 930 in 1911, was 800 in 1921.

The number of persons employed in "Building and Works of Construction" was 2,123 in 1901 and 1,207 in 1911.

In 1921 there were 570 persons classified under "Builders, Bricklayers, Stone and Slate Workers."

There has been some alteration in the number of persons under the heading "Retired or Unoccupied," the figures being :—

		1901.	1911.	1921.
Males	...	3,167	3,814	3,263
Females	...	11,348	12,140	12,105

#### **Occupations by Sex of Persons aged 12 years and over.**

Occupation.				Males.	Females.
Total Population	...	...	...	19,004	21,208
Under 12 years of age...	...	...	...	3,867	3,862
Aged 12 and over	...	...	...	15,137	17,346
Total occupied aged 12 years and over				11,874	5,241
Total unoccupied and retired aged 12 years and over				3,263	12,105
Agricultural	...	...	...	305	23
Workers in chemical processes, makers of paints, oil, etc.	...	...	...	172	15
Metal Workers	...	...	...	1,027	7
Electrical apparatus makers, fitters, etc.	...	...	...	174	3
Textile workers (including 687 female weavers)	...	...	...	367	1,204
Makers of textile goods, articles of dress, etc.	...	...	...	227	343



Occupation.	Males.	Females.
Makers of foods, drinks, and tobacco ... ..	150	62
Workers in wood and furniture ... ..	900	27
Workers in paper (including photographers) ... ..	125	58
Builders, bricklayers, stone and slate workers ... ..	570	1
Painters and decorators ... ..	233	—
Workers in other materials* ... ..	941	291
Workers in mixed or undefined materials ... ..	139	15
Persons employed in Transport & communication	1,129	41
Commercial, finance & insurance (excluding clerks)	1,078	763
Public administrations and defence ... ..	509	46
Professional occupations (including mental attendants and teachers) ... ..	426	601
Employed in entertainments and sports... ..	54	25
Engaged in personal service (including 800 female domestic servants) ... ..	270	1,296
Clerks, draughtsmen, and typists ... ..	527	252
Warehousemen, storekeepers, and packers ... ..	384	95
Stationary engine drivers (including firemen and stokers) ... ..	239	—
Other undefined workers (including gen. labourers)	1,742	64
Retired or not gainfully occupied ... ..	3,263	12,105

\* Practically all the 941 males under this heading are linoleum workers.

### Population.

In dealing with the population of the area there are three figures to be considered—(1) the gross (total) population, (2) the nett population, obtained by deducting persons in the various Institutions from (1), and (3) the corrected population, which is the figure obtained by deducting from the gross population the number of Institution inmates who have been brought from outside the area for medical or other treatment.

The estimated population for 1925 is given by the Registrar General as 40,360 for the birth-rate and 40,140 for the death-rate.

The population at the 1921 Census was 40,212.

There are in the various Institutions, roughly, 3,000 persons not belonging to Lancaster.

#### Population since 1801.

1801 - - 9,030	1841 - - 12,089	1881 - - 20,664
1811 - - 9,247	1851 - - 14,562	1891 - - 31,034
1821 - - 10,144	1861 - - 14,481	1901 - - 40,320
1831 - - 12,813	1871 - - 17,245	1911 - - 41,410

These figures shew that there has been no expansion since 1901. The boundaries of the Borough were extended in 1888 and 1900.

The following tables, compiled from the **Census Returns of 1921**, give information as to buildings, dwelling rooms and families, etc.

The Census was taken on the night of 19/20th June when many families were absent from the town on holidays. Hence the 243 vacant dwellings, the majority of which were only temporarily vacant.

At the 1911 Census there were 655 uninhabited ordinary dwelling-houses. The inhabited house-rate has fallen from five to four persons per house since 1881. It follows that 25 per cent. additional houses are now required to house an equal population.

#### Local Age and Condition Distribution.

The average age for males was 31·4 and for females 32·9 years.

The number of married women, per 1,000 population, under 45 years of age was 217.

The number of females per 1,000 males was 1,116.

## PRIVATE FAMILIES AND DWELLINGS BY WARDS.

Wards.	Private Families	Popula- tion in Private Families	Structur- ally Separate Dwel- lings Occupi'd	Rooms Occupi'd	Rooms per Person
Bulk ... ..	477	2307	468	2376	1'03
Castle ... ..	717	3017	703	3661	1'21
John o'Gaunt...	1399	5558	1325	6142	1'11
Park ... ..	872	3471	841	4380	1'26
Queen's ... ..	1210	4641	1161	6568	1'42
St. Anne's ... ..	869	3594	843	3891	1'08
Scotforth ... ..	1674	6585	1640	8429	1'28
Skerton ... ..	1410	6075	1372	6916	1'14
BOROUGH... ..	8628	35248	8353	42363	1'20



Percentage of structurally separate dwellings returned as—

(1) Private houses	...	...	...	95
(2) Maisonettes, flats, tenements, etc.	...	...	...	—
(3) Attached to shops, warehouses, etc.	...	...	...	5

Rooms per dwelling ... 5'08

Families per dwelling ... 1'03

Persons per family ... 1911—4'40, 1921—4'08

Rooms per person :

(a) All private families ... 1'20

(b) Families in 1 to 9 rooms ... 1'18

(1911 Census) ... 1'12

Increase or decrease in dwellings :

Number ... +287. Percentage .. 3'5

Increase or decrease in private families :

Number ... +371. Percentage ... 4'5

Surplus of rooms in 1921 on basis of England and Wales Standard :

Number ... 2,548. Percentage ... 6'6

Population living more than 2 persons to a room :

1911 ... 1,276. 1921 ... 1,435

# BUILDINGS, DWELLINGS, ROOMS, AND FAMILIES.

Buildings.		Population, 1921.	Structurally Separate Dwellings occupied by Private Families or Vacant												
In Course of Erection.	Completed.		Not Contain- ing Dwellings.	Containing Dwellings.	Dwellings occupied by Non-Private Families (not included in following columns).		Vacant on Census Night		Occupied by Caretaker	1-3 Rooms.	4-5 Rooms.	6-8 Rooms.	9 or more Rooms.	Total Dwellings.	Total Rooms.
					(Included in following columns).	(Included in following columns).	(Included in following columns).	(Included in following columns).							
58	...	33907	8213	...	(i.) Undivided private houses	28	240	2	1367	4246	2349	223	8185	41485	7
...	...	9	1	...	(ii.) Structurally divided do.	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...
...	...	...	...	...	(iii.) Blocks of Flats, Tenements, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	398	1495	378	...	(iv.) Shops	1	2	...	39	173	133	32	377	2131	...
1	382	4801	53	...	(v.) Others	21	1	...	6	11	11	4	32	185	...
59	780	40212	8645	Total	...	50	243	2	1413	4431	2493	259	8596	43808	...
				Principal Buildings in Group (v.)	Vacant on Census Night	...	...	...	31	108	82	22	243	1406	...
				(Others) above:—	(1) Dwellings occupied by One Private Family	...	...	...	1370	4212	2290	226	8098	40923	...
				{ Offices, Factories, Warehouses, Workshops.	(2) Dwellings occupied by Two Private Families	...	...	...	12	107	109	8	236	1326	...
...	189	28	8		(3) Dwellings occupied by Three or more Private Families	...	...	...	...	4	12	3	19	153	...
...	...	61	5		Total Dwellings occupied by Private Families—Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	4449	12	{ Hotels. Institutions. Places of Worship „ of Amusement	Percentage	...	...	...	1382	4323	2411	237	8353	42402	...
...	38	...	...			...	...	...	...	52	29	3	100	...	...
...	5	...	...			...	...	...	...	1394	4438	2545	251	8628	...





## INSTITUTIONS.

Class of Institution.	Number of Institutions.	Total Population.			Inmates only.		
		Persons.	Males.	Females <sup>a</sup>	Persons.	Males	Females.
Workhouses ...	1	210	128	82	195	125	70
Homes, etc., for Lunatics, etc. ...	2	3544	1633	1911	3177	1575	1602
Hospitals not Naval or Military ...	3	118	41	77	70	37	33
Convalescent and Nursing Homes...	2	21	1	20	11	1	10
Naval or Military Barracks... ..	1	275	227	48	—	—	—
Ships (other than Royal Navy) ...	2	9	9	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	11	4177	2039	2138	3453	1738	1715

## ORPHANHOOD OF CHILDREN

(Under 15 years).

Persons.	MALES.						FEMALES.					
	Total.	Both Parents Alive.	Father Dead.	Mother Dead.	Both Dead.	Not known or No Statement.	Total.	Both Parents Alive.	Father Dead.	Mother Dead.	Both Dead.	Not known or No Statement.
9996	5025	4354	424	149	30	68	4971	4255	424	178	51	63

## AGES AND MARITAL CONDITIONS.

	Males	Females.	
		All.	Married only
Total.	19,004	21,208	8,049
Marital Conditions :			
Single	10,475	11,295	—
Married	7,735	8,049	8,049
Widowed	784	1,858	—
Divorced	10	6	—
Ages (last birthday) :			
0—4	1,537	1,498	—
5—9	1,586	1,662	—
10—14	1,902	1,818	—
15—19	1,781	1,780	28
20—24	1,461	1,741	386
25—29	1,395	1,692	877
30—34	1,347	1,613	1,049
35—39	1,375	1,639	1,097
40—44	1,412	1,658	1,174
45—49	1,317	1,438	1,019
50—54	1,131	1,242	828
55—59	930	1,076	649
60—64	749	860	457
65—69	502	654	285
70—74	339	419	127
75—79	156	273	61
80—84	63	109	11
85—89	20	38	2
90—94	1	4	—
95 and over	—	1	—

EDUCATION.—PERSONS ATTENDING EDUCATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS.

Age last Birthday.	Total Population.		Persons attending Educational Institutions.			
	Males.	Females.	Whole Time.		Part Time.	
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
All Ages ...	19004	21208	3416	3299	54	56
0—4 ...	1537	1498	119	132	7	5
5—9 ...	1586	1662	1475	1551	4	12
10—14 ...	1902	1881	1638	1513	21	21
15—19 ...	1781	1780	145	98	18	15
20—24 ...	1461	1741	29	3	3	3
25 and over...	10737	12716	10	2	1	—



## Vital Statistics.

		Total.		Male.		Female.
Births in 1925 ...	...	661	...	331	...	330
Deaths in 1925...	...	570	...	326	...	244

31 of the 661 births were illegitimate.

(Per 1,000 of Population).	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis (Respiratory).	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 5 years—				
1895-1899 ...	27·0	15·5	1·21	166
1900-1904 ...	25·4	14·4	1·10	152
1905-1909 ...	23·3	13·1	0·95	115
1910-1914 ...	20·8	13·0	1·11	102
1915-1919 ...	17·0	15·6	1·44	112
1920-1924 ...	18·9	12·9	0·96	80
Year—				
1924 ...	15·6	13·9	0·86	70
1925 ...	16·3	14·2*	1·12	86
Increase or Decrease in 1925 on—				
Mean of 5 years, 1920-1924 ...	-2·6	+1·3	+0·16	+6
Previous Year ...	+0·7	+0·3	+0·26	+16

\* The standardizing factor (0·947) gives a corrected death-rate of 13·4 per 1,000.

**Number of Births, 1921 to 1925:—**

	Total.		Males.		Females.		Illegitimate.
1921 ...	802	...	431	...	371	...	52
1922 ...	704	...	404	...	300	...	49
1923 ...	706	...	360	...	346	...	43
1924 ...	638	...	324	...	314	...	22
1925 ...	661	...	331	...	330	...	31

**Birth-rate per 1,000 Population:—**

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.
England and Wales...	22·4	...	20·6	...	19·7	...	18·8	...	18·3
157 smaller towns ...	22·7	..	20·5	...	19·8	...	18·9	...	18·3
Lancaster ...	19·7	...	17·2	...	17·2	...	15·6	...	16·3

**Number of Deaths, 1921 to 1925: —**

	Total.		Males.		Females.
1921 ...	499	...	249	...	250
1922 ...	556	...	262	...	294
1923 ...	497	...	244	...	253
1924 ...	565	...	274	...	291
1925 ...	570	...	326	...	244

**Death-rate per 1,000 Population:—**

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.
England and Wales...	12·1	...	12·8	...	11·6	...	12·2	...	12·2
157 Smaller Towns ...	—	...	13·0	...	10·6	...	11·2	...	11·2
Lancaster ...	12·2	...	13·6	...	12·1	...	13·9	...	14·2

(These are the "crude" death-rates).

**Natural Increase in Population, *i.e.*, excess of Births over Deaths:—**

1921—303 ; 1922—148 ; 1923—209 ; 1924—73 ; 1925—91 ;  
a total of 824.

## Principal Causes of Death, 1921-1925:—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
All Causes ... ..	499	556	497	565	570
Tuberculosis :					
(a) Respiratory ...	35	45	44	35	45
(b) Other Forms ...	11	13	10	10	16
Bronchitis ... ..	33	58	46	56	51
Pneumonia ... ..	32	62	34	39	52
Cancer ... ..	48	48	55	64	62
Heart Disease ...	56	58	55	79	56



Causes of Death in 1925 (*Civilians only*).

(Registrar-General's Return).

Cause of Death.						Males.	Females.
All Causes ... ..						326	244
3	Measles	...	...	...	...	5	8
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	6	4
7	Influenza...	...	...	...	...	10	5
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	1	—
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	26	19
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	10	6
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	31	31
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	4
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	19	16
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	34	22
17	Arterio-Sclerosis	...	...	...	...	12	6
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	23	18
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	31	21
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	3
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	1
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	2	3
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	3	1
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	2	—
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	11	3
26	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	1
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	...	—	1
28	Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	14	12
29	Suicide	...	...	...	...	5	—
30	Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	17	4
31	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	57	54
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 Year ... ..						32	25
{ Total ...						3	2
{ Illegitimate ..							

### **Marriages.**

There were 401 marriages in 1925, or eight less than in the previous year. The average number for the three years, 1921 to 1923, was 361.

### **Inquests.**

Figures for the quinquennial period :—1921, 18 ; 1922, 29 ; 1923, 16 ; 1924, 26 ; 1925, 32. In 1925, 26 deaths were due to violence, 22 males and 4 females. Five of the males committed suicide.

### **Causes of Sickness and Invalidity.**

Apart from the cases of Infectious Disease notified, and the death returns, there are no figures available shewing the causes of sickness, etc.

Figures relating to the Notifiable Infectious Diseases are given elsewhere.

Diseases of the respiratory system are common in unfit houses and congested areas. Ignorance of the elementary laws of hygiene, the almost universal dread of fresh, pure air, and the aggregation of persons in ill-ventilated schools, public buildings and vehicles contribute largely to the occurrence and spread of catarrhal conditions in the winter and spring.

Unsatisfactory housing conditions, overcrowding, and a poor standard of nutrition are predisposing causes of Tuberculosis which is an unduly prevalent scourge in the area. One death in ten is caused by Tuberculosis—a preventable disease.

Of every 100 deaths occurring in the five years, 1921 to 1925, nine were due to Bronchitis, eight to Pneumonia, eleven to Heart Disease, and between ten and eleven to Cancer, the number of deaths from which is increasing.

## **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

### **Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.**

(1) *Tuberculosis*.—In the grounds of the Corporation's Fever Hospital, at Luneside, there is a block of buildings containing 21 beds. In 1915 the County Council entered into an agreement with the Corporation, giving the County Council the use of these beds for the treatment of advanced cases of Tuberculosis to be admitted from the Administrative County, which includes the Borough of Lancaster in regard to the treatment of this disease. The agreement which was in the first instance for ten years, has been renewed for a further ten years.

The County Council pays to the Corporation a a capitation fee for nursing and maintenance, and itself provides medical attendance.

(2) *Maternity*.—There is no Maternity Hospital in the area. The Corporation established a Home at High Street Cottage in 1920. This was closed at the end of November, 1923.

There is good lying-in accommodation at the Poor-Law Hospital and, where danger to the mother or child is anticipated, patients can be received at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

(3) *Children*.—No hospital has been provided or subsidised for children. There is, however, a ward for children at the local Infirmary (*v. infra*).

(4) *Fever*.—The Corporation's Fever Hospital for ordinary Infectious Diseases, at Luneside, also serves the needs of the Lancaster Rural District.

There is accommodation in three separate blocks for Scarlet Fever (24 beds in two wards, with a playroom over the kitchen), for Enteric Fever (eight beds in two wards), and for Diphtheria (five beds in one ward).

In the Administrative Block, a 3-storeyed building, there is accommodation for a domestic and nursing staff of twenty-one.



In connection with the hospital there is a laundry, a steam disinfecter and a mortuary. There is not a receiving or a discharging block, nor is there any accommodation for the observation of doubtful cases or for cases of mixed infection.

The Porter is non-resident.

(5) *Smallpox*.—The Corporation's Hospital, at Littlefell, in the area of the Lancaster Rural District, about two miles from the Town Hall, has two wards with accommodation for eleven patients. It is also available for cases of Small-pox from the Lancaster Rural District and for ship-borne cases from the Port of Heysham.

(6) **Other Hospitals**.—There are also situated in the District—

(a) *The Royal Lancaster Infirmary*.—A voluntary, general hospital for the Borough and surrounding district. It has accommodation for 29 men, 25 women and 12 children, and 20 beds in the temporary Extension Ward. There were 1,243 in-patients in 1925—393 men, 501 women and 349 children.

The finances of the Infirmary are in a satisfactory condition owing in large measure to the success of the scheme giving Hospital Maintenance and Nursing to workpeople in return for 3d. a week. This scheme has been expanded to enable similar privileges to be extended (1) to persons whose incomes are under £200 a year on payment of 3s. 3d. a quarter, and (2) to those with less than £300 a year on payment of 5s. a quarter.

(b) *The Poor-Law Infirmary* of the Lancaster Union has accommodation for 49 men, 51 women and 8 children. There is also a Maternity Ward and a separate Children's Home.

One of the County Mental Hospitals and the Royal Albert Institution for the Feeble-Minded of the Northern Counties are also within the area.

### Contributions to Hospitals, etc.

The Lancaster Corporation makes the following yearly contribution to

The Royal Lancaster Infirmary	...	...	£85	os.	od.
Manchester Royal Infirmary	...	...	£26	5s.	od.
Manchester Eye Hospital	...	...	£5	5s.	od.
Lancaster Invalid Children's Aid Association			£10	os.	od.
Lancaster District Nursing Society (in addition to grants by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee)	...	...	£2	os.	od.

No Institutional provision has been made in the area for *unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children.*

### Ambulance Facilities.

(a) *For Infectious Cases.*—The Health Committee of the Corporation has a horse-drawn ambulance for the removal of cases of Infectious Disease to the Fever Hospital from the Borough and Rural District. It is housed near the centre of the town, more than a mile from the Hospital, and horsed from adjacent livery stables.

(b) *For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.*—A motor ambulance kept at the Fire Station, near the Town Hall, is provided by the Watch Committee.

In cases of accident, necessitating removal to the Infirmary, it is available day or night free of charge. It is also available for the removal of private, non-infectious cases to or from the Infirmary, residences, railway stations and other places within the Borough at a fee of 5s., reduced to 2s. 6d. in needy cases. If used outside the Borough the fee is 7s. 6d., plus 1s. per mile.

## Clinics and Treatment Centres:—

Name.	Situation.	Accommodation	Provided by.
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.	Thurnham House, Thurnham Street, Lancaster.	Three rooms, kitchen, etc., on ground floor.	The Lancaster Corporation
School Clinics : (1) Refraction. (2) Dental. (3) Minor Ailments.	(There is also a Minor Ailments Clinic at Skerton Council School)	Four rooms, bathroom, etc. on first floor.  Indoor & out- door w.c.'s	Public Health and Education Committees.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	8, Middle Street, Lancaster.	Consulting Room, Waiting Rooms, etc.	The Lancashire County Council.
V.D. Centre.	The nearest is at Preston Royal Infirmary		
Day Nurseries	There are none in the area.		

## Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Office Held.	Name.	Qualifications.	Other Offices Held.
*Medical Officer of Health	J. D. Buchanan	M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.	Port M.O.H , School M.O., Med. Supt. of Corp. Hospitals
*Senior Sanitary Inspector	F. W. Smith	R.S.I. Certif.	Port San. Insp. Inspector for Food & Drugs, Factory and Housing Acts.
*Sanitary Inspectors	{ H. Scholefield	R.S.I. Certif., Meat Insp't'rs Certif. (Man- chester)	Meat Inspector, Inspector of C.L. Houses, and Canal Boats.
	{ V. Jones ... (till 30 Apl)	R.S.I. Certif., Meat Insp't'rs Certif.(Liver- pool)	District Inspector
	{ G. Grieve ... (from 1 May)	R.S.I. Certif.	District Inspector
*Health Visitors (half time)	{ Mrs. Edwards (till 28 Feb.)	Trained Nurse C.M.B. Certif.	School Nurses (half time).
	{ Miss Atkinson (from 23 Mar.)	Trained Nurse, C.M.B. Certif. H.V.&S.N.Cert.	
	{ Miss Holland	Trained Nurse, C.M.B. Certif.	
	{ Miss Thompson	Trained (Chil- dren's Hosp't'l) Nurse	
	{ Miss Thoms ...	R.S.I. Certif. C.M.B. Certif.	
Chief Clerk ...	H. H. Kellett	..	...
Clerks ...	{ G. Grieve ... (till 30 Apl.)	...	...
	{ J. V. Smith ... (from 11 May)	...	...
Disinfector ...	R. Sykes ...	...	...
Matron, Isolation Hospitals	Miss Lanyon ..	Trained Nurse	...
Veterinary Insp. (part time)	O. Ducksbury	M.R.C.V.S.	...

\* Towards the salaries of these Officers contribution is made by Exchequer grants.



### Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) *General*.—There are no private Nursing Homes in the area from which Nurses can be obtained, the nearest being at Ulverston. In the case of homes which cannot afford a private nurse general nursing is provided, at the request of the Medical Attendant, by the Lancaster District Nursing Society, a voluntary Association in affiliation with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

The Society's staff is centrally housed in King Street, and consists of five trained nurses one of whom does midwifery work only.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Corporation makes an annual grant of £75 to the Society in return for which the Society undertakes to attend free or at a reduced fee, midwifery cases recommended by the Medical Officer of Health.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles, etc.*—An arrangement was made with the Nursing Society in 1925 whereby the services of a trained nurse will be available for home nursing during epidemics of Measles, etc. amongst children under five years. For this service the Corporation pays £60 a year.

The Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee is a member of the Committee of the Nursing Society.

*Midwives*.—There are eleven midwives practising in the area. Four of these are untrained and uncertificated. The other seven (two of whom belong to the staff of the Nursing Society) possess the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board.

The Local Authority does not employ nor subsidise any practising midwives.

The County Council is the Authority for the supervision of midwives in the area.

There is no trained midwife resident in Skerton Ward.

### Chemical Work.

Chemical analysis of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by the Public Analyst.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to Manchester University Public Health Laboratory.

### Public Health Legislation in Force.

#### *Local Acts :—*

(1) *The Lancaster Corporation Act, 1880*, contains clauses dealing with the prohibition of slaughtering, except at the public slaughter-house, and with the prevention of infectious disease.

(2) *The Lancaster Corporation Act, 1888*, gives powers with respect to disinfection, the washing of infected clothes, and the inspection of dairies outside the Borough.

(3) *The Lancaster Corporation Act, 1900*, contains clauses relating to the manufacture of ice cream, the sale of milk from cows affected with tuberculosis, and the regulation of common lodging-houses.

(4) *The Lancaster Corporation Act, 1918*, gives powers for the compulsory disinfection of houses infected by tuberculosis, and for the cleansing of houses infested with vermin.

*The Lancaster (Shell-fish) Regs., 1918*, prohibit the sale and distribution, for human consumption, of mussels or other shell-fish taken from within the Port Sanitary District, which have not been satisfactorily cleansed or sterilised.

#### *General Adoptive Acts :—*

Baths & Wash-houses Acts, 1846, etc. ... ..	Adopted. 26th Oct., 1892
Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890, Pt. III.	—
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, Parts III. and V. ... ..	25th Mar., 1891
Notification of Births Act, 1907... ..	27th Nov., 1907
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part II. ; Secs. 34 to 42, 45, 46, 50 and 51 of Part III. ; Secs. 52 to 55, 57 to 60, 62 to 64, and 68 of Part IV. ; Part V. ; Part VI. ; and Secs. 92 to 94 of Part X. ... ..	30th Nov., 1914

*Bye-laws and Regulations :—*

Common Lodging-houses	...	...	...	Operative from 19th April, 1882
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	29th May, 1901
Prevention of Nuisances	...	...	...	12th Mar., 1892
Port Inspection	...	...	...	24th Aug., 1900
Isolation Hospital...	...	...	...	30th Nov., 1898
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	27th Sept., 1899
Streets and New Buildings	...	...	...	17th April, 1885
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	25th June, 1923
Spitting in Public Places	...	...	...	26th Mar., 1913

These Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations are, as a rule, well administered, and the powers granted by them have from time to time proved useful.

For thoroughly efficient administration, a much larger staff would be necessary.

**Co-operation with other Agencies.**

There is no co-operation with the medical and auxiliary services of National Health Insurance.

An arrangement has been made with the Royal Lancaster Infirmary whereby children requiring operative treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoids are attended to free of charge.

Elsewhere particulars are given of contributions by the Corporation to this and other voluntary hospitals and agencies.

Satisfactory co-operation exists with the Invalid Children's Aid Association, the Lancaster District Nursing Society, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the North Lancashire Association for Mental Welfare, and to some extent with the Poor Law.

**Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

**Water.**—The source of supply is the north side of Wyresdale, from moorland surface and springs on the fell side.



The supply is constant, and since the completion, in 1922, of the 6-mile pipe-line from Grizedale Tank to the Blea Tarn reservoir, the danger of shortage has not arisen.

The quality of the water is excellent, and there is little or no risk of contamination. The supply to certain parts of the area is mechanically-filtered, and during 1925 the Corporation decided to instal additional filtration plant on the completion of which the whole supply will be filtered.

An analysis of the unfiltered supply, in March, 1925, shewed that the *Bacillus Coli Communis* was found in 100 c.c. but not in 10 c.c., that there was no temporary hardness and the permanent hardness, by Clarke's method, was 2.0, and that the action on bright lead foil in 24 hours was 0.04 per 100,000.

Water is supplied directly to, approximately, 8,500 houses in the Borough, while 475 houses are supplied by 118 standpipes in yards.

**Rivers and Streams.**—No complaints were received of pollution of streams, and no action was called for.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—The town is sewered on the combined system which covers practically the whole area.

As a rule rain-water pipes are directly connected to the sewers, and only in rare instances are there any disconnecting chambers between the sewer and the house drain.

A large number of houses have no drains—the slop-water is thrown on the streets or down the street gullies.

In 1925, the number of drains found defective was 232, and evidence of slipshod and dishonest workmanship in construction was frequently met with.

The sewage from the area is discharged into the tidal portion of the River Lune by six outfalls.

When the river is in flood at high tide there is liability to flooding of cellars in the lower-lying parts of the area.



**Closet Accommodation.**—At the end of 1925 the accommodation was

Fresh-water Closets	...	...	12,386
Pail Closets	...	...	59
Privy Middens	...	...	21

Four privy closets and eight pail closets were converted to fresh-water closets during the year and, where connection with sewers is feasible, conversion is proceeding.

The privy middens are chiefly associated with isolated houses, and the bulk of the pail closets (now being converted) with a mill.

Only fresh-water closets are being erected in connection with new houses.

In the older parts of the town there is often only one closet for two, three and even four houses—a state of affairs incompatible with health or decency.

For 1,218 houses, many of which contain more than one family, there are only 467 water closets.

The new Bye-laws relating to Tents, Vans and Sheds gave powers, of which advantage is being taken, to obtain satisfactory closet accommodation for van-dwellers.

**Scavenging.**—The Borough Surveyor's department is responsible for the removal and disposal of **house refuse**. In an urban area, such as Lancaster, house refuse should be removed not less frequently than once a week. Frequent removal is especially desirable in the case of common ashpits situated in yards and courts in close proximity to dwellings.

A fortnightly collection is aimed at, but judging from the number of complaints sent to the Health Office this is not universally attained.

At the end of 1925 there were 4,757 **ashpits** and 2,527 **ashbins** in the area. Though many of the ashpits are satisfactory, others are nuisances and a menace to health and should be abolished. During 1925 movable ashbins were substituted for ashpits at only eleven houses.

A definite policy should be adopted in this matter, to include the speedy abolition of all common ashpits and the weekly collection of all house refuse.

One movable sanitary bin for each dwelling should be the standard aimed at. **Trade refuse** is collected daily from shops and premises in the central part of the town.

Motor, as well as horse-drawn vehicles are used for the removal of house refuse, some of which is burned at the destructor and the remainder tipped at Greaves Quarry.

For the year ending 31st March, 1926, 10,269 tons of refuse were collected, of which 6,894 tons went to the destructor and 3,375 tons were tipped.

**Horse-middens.**—The Bye-laws demand the weekly removal of the contents of horse-middens, but it is only in the spring and early summer that this is done. In the late summer and early autumn these middens are the chief breeding-places of flies and cause much nuisance.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

#### TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING 1925.

Nature of Inspection.				No. of Inspections.
Routine (each street one visit)	...	...	...	1,050
Unfit Houses and Dangerous Buildings			...	1,167
House Drainage	...	...	...	507
Closets, Privies, etc....	...	...	...	653
Ashpits and Ashbins	...	...	...	725
Filthy Premises	...	...	...	28
Offensive Deposits and Accumulations...			...	93
Horse Middens	...	...	...	45
Overcrowding	...	...	...	16
Yards, Courts, and Passages	...	...	...	125
Rainwater and Waste Pipes	...	...	...	602
Stagnant Water in Cellar	...	...	...	46
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	...	...	...	72
Water Supply (including Wastes)	...	...	...	139
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	176
Slaughterhouse (Public)	...	...	...	880
Other places where Food is prepared or sold			...	3,194
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	...	...	...	184
Factories and Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	140
Bakehouses...	...	...	...	65
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	303
Canal Boats	...	...	...	86
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	164
Smoke Observations...	...	...	...	1
Theatres and Cinemas	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous...	...	...	...	496
Total				10,960

No. of Notices served during 1925 :—Informal, 1,324 ; Statutory, 524.  
 „ outstanding at end of 1925 :—Informal, 36 ; Statutory, 46.

Magisterial Proceedings :—Nil.

**Smoke Abatement.**—Action was taken by the Local Authority to abate nuisance from smoke at a local factory about which many complaints had been received. There has been a marked improvement since the management adopted methods to minimise the nuisance.

No local readings of atmospheric impurity have been taken in the area.

The amount of industrial smoke in Lancaster is greater than would be expected from the extent of the industries. It is not always the chimneys with the largest number of boilers attached which cause the greatest pollution of the atmosphere, while some of the worst offenders are not tall enough to allow the smoke to pass over the surrounding buildings.

#### **Premises and Occupations Controlled by Bye-laws, etc.**

Four **offensive trades** are carried on within the Borough—(1) Hide Dressing, (2) Tallow Chandling, (3) Gut Scraping, and (4) Tripe Dressing. The two latter are on Corporation premises at the Slaughterhouse. Action was taken to deodorize the liquid waste from these two, following on complaints from the adjoining Electricity Works

Owing to the increase in the numbers of **houses let in lodgings** and to the unsatisfactory conditions resulting from the occupation by several families of houses intended for single families, the need arose for Bye-laws in regard to such houses. The Model Bye-laws have have now (1926) been adopted.

**Common Lodging-houses.**—One house was struck off the register, leaving seven in use at the end of the year. These are for the most part satisfactory, though not originally constructed for their



present purpose. Three breaches of the bye-laws were discovered in 1925. There is a total accommodation for 270 lodgers; the maximum number during the year was 188, and the minimum 109.

**Schools.**—Attention has been given by periodical visits and appropriate action where called for, to the sanitary condition and water supply of schools. Action taken in relation to the health of the scholars and for preventing the spread of infectious disease was in accordance with the official Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School, 1925.

**Foot and Mouth Disease.**—The prevalence of this disease in the country during 1925 entailed a large amount of clerical work on the Public Health Staff. The number of licences issued was 941.

**Movement of Swine.**—Fifty-one licences were issued in connection with the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Show held in August at Lancaster.

**Importation of Irish Animals Order, 1922.**—395 licences were granted for the removal of 6,426 Irish animals from the Cattle Market.

# ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, IN CONNECTION WITH FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

## (1) Inspection of Premises.

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories ... ..	19	—	—
Workshops ... ..	44	—	—
Workplaces ... ..	6	—	—
Total ... ..	69	—	—

**(2) Defects Found.**

Nuisances.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecutions.
Want of Cleanliness of Bakehouses ... ..	2	2	—	—
Defective Sanitary Accommodation ...	1	1	—	—
Total... ..	3	3	—	—

There are 554 premises on the register—125 factories, 343 workshops, 50 domestic workshops, and 36 workplaces.

Sixty-one lists of 32 out-workers were received during 1925 from 31 tradesmen, and the premises of the out-workers were inspected.

**Housing.****(1) General Housing Conditions in the Area:—**

(1) **General Housing Conditions.**—The majority of the houses are of the cottage property type. The very old houses are often three-storeyed, and many have cellars. There is still a large number of back-to-back houses, mostly huddled together in yards and courts, with few conveniences.

(2) (a) **Extent of Shortage or Excess of Houses.**—There was up to the year 1915 an excess of houses in the Borough. Since then the shortage has been growing, and at the present rate of building it will be many years before it is overtaken.

It is estimated that at least 600 houses are now required.

(b) **Measures to Meet the Shortage.**—The Corporation is giving all possible assistance to private builders, and is itself building houses.

The rents of the houses now being built are beyond the means of hundreds of families who need houses.

630 registered applicants were circularised in October, 1925, as to whether they still required houses. Although no reply was received from 235, the amended register contained over 500 names at the end of the year.

- (3) **Changes in Population, 1921 to 1925, or Anticipated.**—Immigration has been probably more than balanced by emigration ; no figures are available. The natural increase in population during the five years was 824, a figure which represents 200 houses. With a revival in trade it is reasonable to expect that the new industry at the old Wagon Works will bring more workers and that the now empty Projectile Factory will find a purchaser.

(2) **Overcrowding.**

- (1) **Extent.**—Overcrowding in the area is considerable and increasing. At the 1921 Census 1,435 persons were living under overcrowded conditions.

During the five years, 1921–1925, there were 1,893 marriages, and an excess of births over deaths amounting to 824 ; whereas during the same period only 166 new houses were built and an appreciable number demolished. Overcrowding is greatest in the least habitable houses.

- (2) **Causes.**—The shortage of houses and the inability of families needing houses to pay an economic rent, or even the rent of a subsidised house.

There are hundreds of families in the town to whom a rent in excess of 5/- weekly is greater than they can afford, if they are to feed and clothe themselves properly in the first instance.



Advantage is taken of their need for shelter by tenants of houses, intended for an average family, sub-letting one or two rooms at a rent equal to or exceeding that for the whole house.

- (3) **Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding.**—The service of notices in cases of serious overcrowding, in the absence of suitable accommodation elsewhere, is a waste of time and merely transfers the nuisance from one house to another. No special measures have been taken to deal with the evil.

The erection of new houses has not yet overtaken the arrears due to the stoppage of building during the war. Even though 600 new houses were suddenly to appear the problem of overcrowding would not be solved. We should continue to have a large number of families to whom the rents of the new houses would be prohibitive. It was so at the 1911 Census when, although there were 655 empty houses, there were 1,276 persons living under overcrowded conditions.

The provision of houses by Municipal Authorities after the war was necessitated by the inability of the working-classes to pay an economic rent. When the houses were ready to let ability to pay the rent fixed was one of the chief considerations in granting applications for houses for which ratepayers and taxpayers are paying as well as tenants.

The problem of housing the poor remains to be tackled.

(4) **Principal Cases of Overcrowding in 1925.**

A few examples of the overcrowded conditions which exist are here given :—

(a) Cottage with 2 bedrooms ; parents occupy one bedroom, 6 children in the other—3 boys aged 16, 15, and 11, and 3 girls, 14, 14, and 12.

(b) Cottage with 4 bedrooms ; two families (one tubercular), total occupants, 16,



- (c) Insanitary dwelling in back-yard with two bedrooms, one of which is not fit for use; parents and 3 young children in one bed in the other room, which is not big enough to hold a second bed.
- (d) Cottage with 3 bedrooms; 2 families of 5 and 7. Family of 5 sleeping in one bedroom.
- (e) Cottage with 2 bedrooms; 2 families, 9 occupants.
- (f) Cottage with 2 bedrooms; 3 families, 7 occupants; expectant mother.

In sub-let houses there are several instances of whole families living and sleeping in one room, and indecent mixing of the sexes in bedrooms is increasing.

### (3) **Fitness of Houses :—**

There are some 400 or 500 houses of an average age of 100 years. The majority of these are unfit for human habitation. A large number of houses were built about 30 years ago. These are fairly satisfactory although they have few amenities.

With the advent of Municipal Housing Schemes a new standard of housing has been introduced from which it will be difficult to depart.

The principal defects found to exist in unfit houses are insufficient light and means of ventilation, dampness, a lack of facilities for carrying on housework, inadequate water supply and arrangements for the disposal of slop-water, insufficient closet accommodation and general lack of repair.

Management of property in this area consists almost solely in the collection of rents. Tenants as a rule only complain to the Health Department of defects after they have complained more than once to the owner or agent, and nothing has been done.

There are tenants who themselves do many repairs which owners should do. On the other hand, there are tenants who are wilful in neglecting the houses and their fittings.

The policy of the Local Authority in dealing with unfit houses prior to and during the early days of the war involved the demolition of those houses which could not be made habitable, and the reconstruction of saveable houses. At that time empty houses were available for displaced tenants.

During the ten years, 1915 to 1925, the owners of these houses were not called upon to do repairs, as it was thought unfair to ask that money should be spent on houses which it was hoped would at an early date be demolished. The owners, therefore, continued to draw rents from property on which little or nothing was being spent for repairs, while owners of habitable houses were being asked to keep their houses in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

After careful consideration, and in view of the fact that it would not be possible for a number of years to deal with unfit houses by reconstruction and demolition because of the growing shortage, the Committee decided towards the end of 1925 to call upon owners of unfit houses to make these houses as reasonably fit as possible without displacing the tenants. This work is now being vigorously prosecuted under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

The chief difficulty met with in remedying unfitness of houses is the unwillingness of owners to spend any money on houses which they realise are not fit to live in and cannot be made fit.

In all cases a preliminary notice stating the minimum repairs which are considered necessary is sent to the owners, but few owners bestir themselves until the statutory notice follows.

The Public Health Department is not aware of any special action to secure improved management of property by owners. Advice is given, as opportunity offers, by the Inspectors on the better care of property by tenants.

There is no scheme for the gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements, nor has any special method been adopted for dealing with unfit back-to-back houses, or other types of insanitary property.

With the exception of the older houses in yards and courts and back-to-back houses elsewhere, houses generally have an internal water supply and a sink with waste-pipe for carrying off slop-water. In an urban area like Lancaster these fittings are a necessity in every house. Without them cleanliness is impossible.

There are in the Borough 475 houses with no internal water supply. These obtain their supply from stand-pipes in the common yards. The slop-water is thrown into the yard or on the adjoining street.

There are no less than 1,218 houses without separate closet accommodation. Many houses share a closet with one, two or even three other houses. Often enough the accommodation is not readily accessible. Additional closets are being asked for by the Corporation but, owing to the lack of space for a site in congested yards, not much can be done to improve matters.

Insanitary ashpits are common in connection with the unfit houses. They are not infrequently a nuisance, and an endeavour is now being made to lessen their number and substitute sanitary ashbins.

#### (4) Unhealthy Areas:—

In October, 1919, the Local Authority submitted a Housing Survey to the Government which stated that there were nine unhealthy areas in the Borough. Part of one of these,



known as St. Leonardgate area, was officially represented by the M.O.H. in June, 1923, and a scheme was drawn up for its improvement.

In March, 1924, the Minister of Health was asked to confirm the scheme and an enquiry was held on 3rd July. The Minister subsequently confirmed the scheme, but refused to sanction the demolition of three houses included by the Corporation. The scheme, as amended, involves the demolition of 53 dwellings. Houses to replace those to be demolished are now being built on the Bulk Estate.

No complaints have been received or other representations made in regard to unhealthy areas.

- (5) **Bye-laws relating to Houses, etc.**—The bye-laws relating to new buildings are 40 years old, and new bye-laws have recently been adopted by the Corporation.

Reference has already been made to bye-laws relating to houses let in lodgings (adopted in 1926), and to tents, vans, and sheds (new bye-laws adopted in 1923).

- (6) **Miscellaneous.**—Information as to the proper use of household fittings is given, as stated previously, by the Sanitary Inspectors to tenants, who are also encouraged to burn household refuse. Advice as to burning refuse is painted in large letters on the Corporation's wagons for collecting refuse.

#### **Rent Restriction Act, 1920.**

Three applications for certificates were received in 1925. In one case repairs were done before a certificate was issued. In another the work was done before the case came into Court. In the third the rent was reduced by the Court.



### Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including Nos. given separately under (b)	88
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i.) By the Local Authority ... ..	58
(ii.) By other bodies or persons ... ..	30

Number of houses in course of erection under Council's building scheme ... ..	86
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Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation :—

Have any advances been made during the year :

(a) By Loans : Yes. No. : 17. Amount of Loans : £5,347.

(b) By Subsidy : Yes. No. : 14. Amount of Subsidies : £1,325.

Unfit Dwelling-houses :—

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	641
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	4
(4) Number of dwelling-houses, exclusive of those referred to under (3), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	581

## Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	390
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## Action under Statutory Powers :—

## A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	163
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners, 145. (b) By Local Authority in default of owners, 0.	... ..	145
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	... ..	—

## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	63
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners, 60. (b) By Local Authority in default of owners, 0	... ..	60

## C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15, Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	4

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	—

*D.*—Number of Houses Demolished Voluntarily by Owners, or Converted into Workshops, etc. ... 6

New Houses Built since 1920 :—

Year...	...	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Number	...	28	9	8	33	88

Total = 166, a yearly average of 33.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) **Milk Supply.**—Sixty-seven kitters deliver milk in the area. Of these 67, 40 are producers—18 in the Borough and 22 outside the Borough boundary. Milk can also be obtained at 46 milkshops.

The fat-content of the milk, as judged by the results of samples analysed, is well above the minimum figure in the Regulations (see table, below). The law relating to the chemical composition of milk is of little help in keeping up the standard. The table shews that in recent years there has been a tendency for the standard to fall.

Apart from the small amount of certified milk sold, which must be maintained at a high standard of cleanliness, really clean milk is scarce.

Customers to whom visibly-dirty milk is delivered sometimes complain at the Health Office, but rarely to the seller.

There is no graded milk produced within or in the vicinity of Lancaster.

The same price is charged for milk whether it is (1) clean and rich in fat or (2) dirty and with excess of water.

### Chemical Composition of Milk Supply.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Number of samples analysed ...	51	50	47	52	50
Number deficient in fat or other solid constituents ...	7	6	4	8	13
Average percentage of fat in all samples taken ...	3.52	3.68	3.61	3.84	3.41
Average percentage of non-fatty solids in all samples taken ...	8.85	8.84	8.95	9.24	8.82

*Note.*—Milk containing less than 3 per cent. of milk fat or 8.5 per cent. of non-fatty solids shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, to be not genuine.—(Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901).

In recent years the number of middlemen connected with the milk supply has increased and there is much overlapping and decanting in its distribution. Formerly the producer, as a rule, brought milk to the consumer's door. Now the producer often disposes of his milk to a middleman who employs boys to deliver it. Thus the opportunities for contamination are increased. Further contamination arises from its storage, too frequently in uncovered vessels, in small shops the number of which is in excess of the requirements of the area.

Consumers also must share the blame for the contamination of this valuable food, especially those who leave incompletely-covered jugs on the door-step for hours before the milkman calls. It might help to stop this custom if those who practice it were aware that well-meaning milkmen sometimes blow the accumulated dust out of the jugs!



Sufficient care of milk in the home is not always taken. In working-class houses one commonly sees milk in an uncovered vessel, with flies abounding.

Educational work is urgently needed amongst producers, distributors and consumers, to raise the standard of cleanliness of the milk supply.

This education might appropriately begin with classes for the young men and women engaged in production.

It is significant that the only enquiries received at the Health Office in 1925 about certified milk came from visitors to the town.

Efficient administration of the various laws relating to milk is impossible without adding to the staff of the department. In 1925 only 27 inspections were made of the premises of 23 cowkeepers. More use was made of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, in dealing with Milkshops in the Borough.

A report on the conditions existing at these was made by an Inspector; and those where the conditions were worst were visited by the M. O. H. who recommended the Committee to remove eleven from the register. Five of these were removed; the other six were allowed to continue selling on their undertaking to comply with the requirements of the M. O. H.

One application for registration was refused.

The Corporation employs a part-time Veterinary Inspector who, as opportunity offers, inspects the dairy cattle in the Borough.

Three cows were slaughtered in 1925 under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Twenty-six samples of milk, taken at farms, were examined for tuberculosis (by inoculation) and for dirt. All were found free from tuberculosis. The total sediment varied from 6 to 80, and the extraneous matter from a trace (in 4 samples) to 25 per 100,000 parts.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, a licence was granted to a local dealer to sell Certified Milk. This milk is produced at Keswick. Its price is beyond the means of the working classes.

(b) **Meat.**—Except at the County Mental Hospital and the Royal Albert Institution there are no private slaughter-houses in the Borough.

All meat slaughtered at the public slaughter-house is inspected by one of the Inspectors, most of whose time is absorbed by this work.

2,536 cattle, 507 calves, 13,249 sheep, and 2,080 pigs—a total of 18,372 animals, were slaughtered during 1925.

The Properties Committee manages the public slaughter-house, the executive officer being the Borough Surveyor.

The Meat Inspector also examines all carcasses brought into the Borough from outside, and the baskets of meat brought from the country on market days, as well as meat at shops and market stalls weekly.

Some difficulty was experienced with one or two shopkeepers in the administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. These Regulations are now, however, working smoothly.

No arrangements have been made for the marking of meat under the Regulations.

Condemned meat and offals are removed daily to the destructor.

#### Amount of Food Condemned in 1925.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Tuberculous Carcases and Parts ...	2	17	2	0
Other Diseased or Unsound Meat ...	2	3	3	10
Other Food Stuffs... ..	4	9	1	11

(c) **Other Foods.**—Places where food is prepared or exposed for sale, including bakehouses and fried fish shops, are regularly visited.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

## Unsound Food Condemned in 1925.

Description.	Number.	Approximate Weight Destroyed.			
		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Cattle { Tubercular ...	104	2	3	2	26
Other disease ...	65	1	2	3	19
Pigs { Tubercular ...	94	...	13	3	2
Other disease ...	13	...	2	2	11
Sheep { Fluke ...	155	...	3	—	3
Other disease ...	52	...	2	2	20
Beef { British ...	6 lots	...	2	2	8
Frozen ...	10 „	...	7	...	21
Imported ...	3 „	...	1	3	12
Carrots ...	80 bags	2	...	...	...
Chicken ...	1	...	...	...	3
Codfish ...	2	...	...	...	14
Ducks ...	3	...	...	...	12
Haddock { Dried ...	12 boxes	...	1	2	...
Fresh ...	2 lots	...	...	2	7
Mutton { British ...	1 lot	...	...	...	4
Chilled ...	8 carcasses	...	3	2	8
Onions, Spanish ...	25 cases	1	8	...	14
Oranges ...	16 „	...	11	...	...
Pears ...	1 lot	...	1	1	20
Pork, Frozen ...	1 lot	...	...	...	19
Rabbits ...	22	...	...	1	5
Sausages ...	1 lot	...	...	...	5
Strawberries ...	43 baskets	...	1	1	6
Tomatoes ...	14 boxes	...	2	...	...
Tongue, Tinned ...	1 tin	...	...	...	6
TOTAL ...	735	9	10	2	21

(d) **Sale of Food Order, 1921.**—Imported meat was exhibited for sale at two shops at which no notice was displayed stating that such meat was sold there. The offenders were cautioned.

(e) **Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.**—144 samples (including 50 of milk and 30 of butter) were taken for analysis. 129 were reported to be genuine by the Public Analyst.

Seven samples of milk were reported to be deficient in fat (one to the extent of 16 per cent).

Six samples of milk were deficient in non-fatty solids.

Two samples of gin were deficient in strength.

No cases were taken before the Magistrates.

One milk-seller was asked to appear before the Committee, and warning letters were sent to some others.

(f) **Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.**—52 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst who reported that they were all free from preservative.

Four samples of cream sold as preserved cream were submitted. These were labelled in accordance with the Regulations. Each of three samples contained less than the maximum amount (0·4 per cent. of Boric Acid) of preservative allowed, the figures being 0·27, 0·20 and 0·40 per cent., and one slightly in excess, *i.e.* 0·44 per cent.

For all four samples the Analyst stated the percentage of milk-fat, viz. :—52·55, 46·05, 61·45 and 60·10 per cent.



## Infectious Diseases.

The prevalence of the notifiable infectious diseases during the period since 1920 is shewn in the following table :—

Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.				
	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Scarlet Fever ... ..	111	140	73	79	171
Diphtheria ... ..	20	58	44	44	24
Enteric Fever ... ..	5	10	6	1	1
Erysipelas ... ..	14	35	14	12	14
Pneumonia... ..	17	68	51	68	110
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	2	3	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	5	5	7	2	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	6	4
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis :—					
Respiratory ... ..	52	64	70	64	90
Other Forms ... ..	16	30	35	29	30

**Small-pox.**—This disease has been absent from the district for twenty years. Contacts coming into the area are visited and kept under observation. The Medical Officer of Health is from time to time asked to see suspicious cases by their medical attendants.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Regulations of 1917. Small-pox has been prevalent during recent years in the North of England, on the eastern side of the Pennines, and occasional outbreaks have occurred in the County of Lancaster. Should the disease invade the Borough of Lancaster, it is interesting to note the state of vaccination of the infant population. Thus :—

		1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Number of Children Born	...	802	704	706	638	661
Number Vaccinated	... ..	543	495	511	483	488
Number Exempted	... ..	136	109	108	94	98

*Note.*—Some children die before vaccination, a few are insusceptible, and some leave the town or cannot be traced.

The real danger of an outbreak in the area lies in the fact that Small-pox at the moment has assumed a mild form and the first few cases are liable to be missed, with the probable result that the disease may get well established before its presence is officially known.

Persons who have been successfully vaccinated within the past seven years can rest assured that they, at any rate, are safe from infection.

**Scarlet Fever.**—Though this area is rarely free from cases of Scarlet Fever, it is now a much milder disease than it was twenty years ago. Compared with Measles or Whooping Cough, the mortality from it is negligible. In recent year many cases of the disease have been missed, and children have been discovered at school in the desquamation stage, in whose case Scarlet Fever had not been suspected. It happens occasionally that children with a mild attack are kept from school for only a few days and then allowed to return. On account of the mildness of the symptoms no doctor is called in.

Its similarity to German Measles gave rise to several errors in diagnosis towards the end of 1925 when both diseases were prevalent

The elementary schools, with the exception of one infants' school in 1925, have not been responsible for the spread of Scarlet Fever. Two children, suffering from the disease, were found in an infant class at another school but the disease did not spread to the other children in the class. A girl who had been treated for Scarlet Fever in an Isolation Hospital outside the area was admitted later to the Infirmary with Otorrhœa, and several cases of Scarlet Fever occurred subsequently in the Ward in which she was a patient.

As far as possible Scarlet Fever patients are kept at their own homes during their illness. Since the policy has been adopted of discharging "clean" cases from the Isolation Hospital, after a four weeks stay, the number of "return" cases has diminished.

Contacts of school age are visited and kept under observation by the School Nurses.

**Diphtheria** was more than usually prevalent from 1922 to 1924. Cases of this disease which are diagnosed and given antitoxin early nearly always recover. Very severe cases are now seldom seen in Lancaster. Sometimes, however, it happens that no doctor is called in until a child has been ill for a week.

It is these cases that end fatally, as the results of the administration of antitoxin are better the earlier it is given. It is advisable to give antitoxin at once to a child with clinical signs of Diphtheria, and not to wait for bacteriological confirmation of the diagnosis. A positive result of the swab examination clinches the diagnosis, whereas a negative result does not always prove that the disease is not diphtheria. It is better to be sure than sorry! Missed cases of Diphtheria are sometimes due to parents thinking that the illness is Mumps, and it is not until signs of suffocation arise that the doctor is sent for.

Locally, no use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, nor of methods of immunization against these diseases.

**Enteric Fever.**—This disease, once endemic in the area, is now rare. Comparatively few cases have occurred since Regulations were made in 1918 prohibiting the use for human consumption of mussels from the beds in the Lune estuary.

**Encephalitis Lethargica.**—The first cases (six) of this disease were notified in 1924. Four cases were notified in 1925. Two of the ten cases have proved fatal. Complete recovery from the disease is rare; its victims are often shattered physically or mentally.

Fortunately, it does not appear to be of a very infectious nature.



DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Cases Admitted to Hospital.	DEATHS.													
															Total													
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Total			Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	
Diphtheria...	...	...	2	...	2	7	7	3	2	1	...	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Scarlet Fever	...	2	4	14	17	79	25	10	16	2	2	...	149	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	4	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Pneumonia...	...	1	2	...	3	10	14	15	23	13	26	3	110*	38	52	8	4	3	1	5	2	1	2	4	2	11	9	
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Acute Poleomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	M ...	1	1	1	...	3	6	4	2	1	3	12	2	53	26	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	3	10	2	5	1	
...	F ...	...	1	...	1	2	6	6	10	7	4	...	37	16	19	...	...	1	...	1	...	3	6	6	1	1		
Total	...	1	1	1	1	5	12	10	3	1	16	2	90	35	45	...	1	1	1	...	2	6	16	8	6	2		
Other Forms of...	M	1	1	...	1	1	2	4	...	1	...	1	12	1	10	1	1	1	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	...		
F	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	3	4	2	2	2	18	...	6	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...		
Total	...	1	1	...	1	1	6	5	3	5	2	3	30	1	16	1	1	1	1	4	1	2	2	1	1	...		

## Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	3	1	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	1	5	1	2	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	2	3	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	1	...	1
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	1	...
Pneumonia ... ..	32	62	31	39	52
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ...	35	45	44	35	45
Other Forms ... ..	11	13	10	10	16

**Pneumonia**.—This is one of the most serious diseases in the area. The number of notified cases is high and the case-mortality is heavy. The prevention of mortality depends on skilful nursing in good surroundings, preferably under open-air conditions. The housing conditions under which many cases occur are not conducive to recovery, while hospital accommodation is limited to a small proportion of the patients for whom it is necessary.

No cases of **Malaria**, **Dysentery** or **Trench Fever** have been notified since 1920.

**Bacteriological Examinations during 1925**.—In addition to one sample of water and 26 samples of milk, 217 swabs for Diphtheria, 8 specimens of blood for Typhoid Fever, and 87 of sputum for Tuberculosis were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester University.

All of the samples of blood gave a negative reaction, 32 swabs for Diphtheria and 46 sputum for Tuberculosis were positive.

Other investigations included the bacteriological examination of three specimens of Cerebro-Spinal fluid.

**Consultations** in doubtful cases of Infectious Disease. The M.O.H. saw 61 cases in consultation with medical practitioners during 1925, chiefly in doubtful cases of Scarlet Fever.

**Diphtheria Antitoxin Supplied.—**

Year	...	...	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Units supplied	...	...	148,000	534,000	568,000	635,500	475,500

Any medical man in the area requiring antitoxin can obtain it from the Public Health Office during office hours, and, at other times, from the Police Station. For treatment, only phials of 8,000 units are supplied. Seven phials, each containing 500 units, were issued in 1925 for prophylactic purposes.

**Influenza.**—There has been no severe epidemic of this disease since 1918, and no special action has been taken in regard to it.

The number of deaths attributed to Influenza in the quinquennial period was:—1921, 2; 1922, 18; 1923, 6; 1924, 22; and 1925, 15; a total of 63.

**Anthrax and Rabies.**—No cases of these diseases were reported.

**Cancer.**—During the five years, 1921 to 1925, 277 deaths were caused by Cancer, which is responsible for rather more than 10 per cent. of the total mortality in the area. This disease has not hitherto received any special attention from the Local Authority.

**Disinfection.**—Houses are disinfected after Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and, by request, Cancer, but not after cases of Measles. Formalin (lamps and spray) is the disinfectant used. 213 houses were disinfected in 1925. The steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital dealt with 3,430 articles of clothing and bedding.



There are no arrangements, outside the Guardians' Institution, for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons.

**Measles, Whooping Cough, etc.**—These diseases are not compulsorily notifiable in the area. Information as to their prevalence amongst children of school age is received from teachers, and the homes are visited, as far as time allows, by the School Nurses.

The following table roughly indicates the prevalence of the diseases named. The figures in brackets are the number of deaths from them :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Measles ... ..	289 (3)	27 (2)	159 (1)	182 (4)	304 (13)
Whooping Cough ...	94 (10)	15 (2)	149 (7)	2 (1)	114 (10)
Chicken-pox ... ..	30	75	38	184	89
Mumps ... ..	15	18	179	23	12

Although Measles and Whooping Cough are two of the most serious diseases of infancy and childhood they are not considered so by parents, and medical advice is rarely sought until the onset of serious complications compels it.

### **Tuberculosis.**

No decline in the incidence of Tuberculosis is yet apparent in Lancaster. The death-rate from the Pulmonary form of the disease, in 1925, was greater in Lancaster than in any other similar area in Lancashire and adjoining Counties. (See comparative Mortality Table at end of Report).

At the end of 1925 there were on the Tuberculosis register 256 cases (139 males and 117 females) of Pulmonary, and 133 cases (55 males and 78 females) of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The continued prevalence of this disease is due to poverty and bad housing conditions.



Table showing New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulm'ry		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
1 ... ..	2	2	3	...	2	1	3	1
5 ... ..	3	2	2	4	1	1	3	1
10 ... ..	6	6	4	1	2	...	1	...
15 ... ..	4	6	...	3	3	3	1	1
20 ... ..	8	3	1	1	4	1	1	1
25 ... ..	13	7	...	3	6	5	...	...
35 ... ..	3	7	...	2	2	6	...	1
45 ... ..	9	3	1	2	2	1	...	1
55 ... ..	3	1	...	...	3	...	...	...
65 & upwards	2	...	...	2	1	1	...	...
Totals...	53	37	12	18	26	19	10	6
	90		30		45		16	

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculous deaths was one to forty-four.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor has any action been taken with regard to compulsory removal to hospital under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The treatment of Tuberculosis in this area is the duty of the County Council.

**Venereal Diseases.**—The County Council is likewise the Authority for schemes under this heading. There is no Clinic in the area.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

According to the figures supplied by the Registrar-General the number of births registered in 1925 was 661—630 legitimate and 31 illegitimate.

621 live births and 27 still births were notified to the M.O.H., thus—by midwives, 476 ; by parents and doctors, 172.

There were 57 deaths of infants under 12 months—52 of legitimate children and 5 of illegitimate. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 births was 86, that for illegitimate children being 161.

The number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth was two (one from sepsis).

Two cases of puerperal fever were notified.

Systematic home visiting of expectant mothers and children under five years of age is carried out by four Health Visitors who give half of their time to child welfare work. They also enquire into still-births and infant deaths.

Advice on the feeding, clothing, and general management of infants and young children is given by the Health Visitors in the home and at the Centre at Thurnham House.

#### **Home Visiting by Health Visitors in 1925.**

To Expectant Mothers...	(1) First Visits...	110	(2) Total Visits...	208
To Infants under 1	.....(1)	„	„	... 623
To Children 1—5	.....			... 1,721
	Total Visits	.....		1,908

Ante-natal work at the Welfare Centre and in connection with the midwifery service is an important branch of the work not hitherto

seriously attempted. The appointment of an Assistant Medical Officer at the end of 1925 will now enable the Committee to develop the work.

Midwifery is chiefly in the hands of the midwives, four of whom have had no training, but are on the register by virtue of the fact that they were in practice in 1902, when the Midwives Act was passed.

Skilled midwifery is available at a reduced rate or free for necessitous women.

The home nursing of Measles and other epidemics is also provided for.

Dried milk and cod liver oil emulsion are distributed by the Committee to expectant and nursing mothers and to young children, after careful enquiries have been made into the circumstances of each family.

To some extent the treatment of minor ailments in young children has been undertaken, and arrangements are in operation for the refraction of children with squint and the provision of spectacles.

There is no Orthopædic scheme for the area, but crippled children have been cared for by the I.C.A.A., which has also sent delicate children to convalescent homes.

Maternity and child welfare work is co-ordinated with that of the School Medical Service in the area.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—One case was notified 18 days after the onset of the disease, which was noticed when the child was 20 days old. The child was attended by a doctor at home for a week, but not notified. When the parents were told that the sight of one eye had gone they took the child to Manchester Eye Hospital, from which Institution the notification was received. The other eye was saved.

**Infant Mortality.**—The following table shews the number of deaths of infants under one year for each of the five years, also the number of children who only lived one week, and one month :—

	Total deaths under one year	Deaths within the 1st week	Deaths in 2nd to 4th weeks
1921	72	21	23
1922	58	18	16
1923	56	15	16
1924	45	16	10
1925	57	20	12

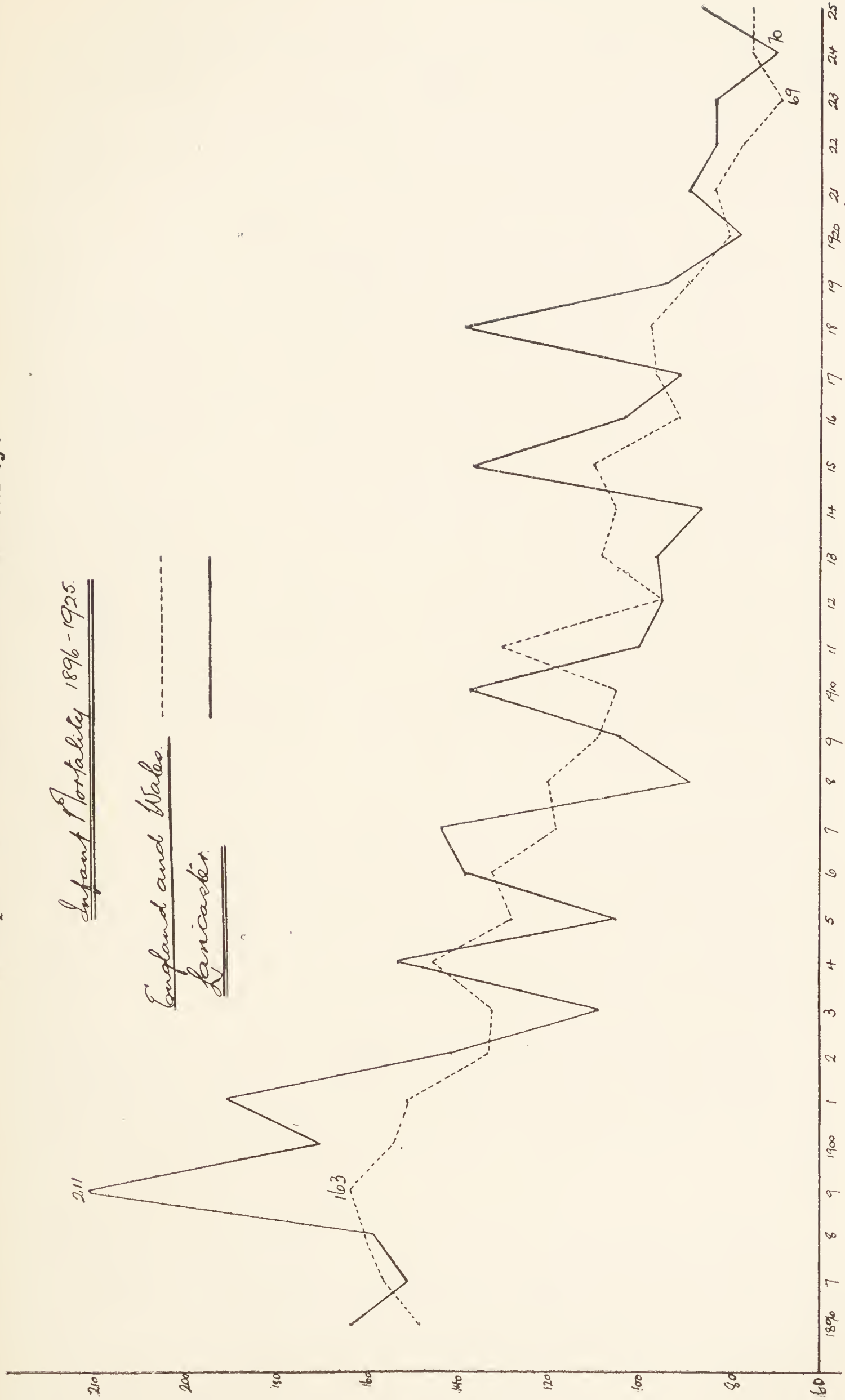
**Maternity and Child-Welfare Centre.** Figures are here given to shew the attendances at the Centre for 1921-1925.

The figures are of individuals attending :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Expectant Mothers ... ..	27	28	24	36	38
Nursing Mothers ... ..	410	381	463	470	442
Children up to 5 years ... ..	437	525	609	724	668



Comparative Chart of Infant Mortality.



### Port of Lancaster.

Amount of Shipping entering the Port Sanitary District in 1925 :—

	Number.	Tonnage.
Foreign Steamers ... ..	2	354
Coastwise   Steamers ... ..	115	10425
Sailing ... ..	2	94
Total Coastwise ... ..	117	10519
Total Foreign and Coastwise	119	10873

One of the foreign vessels was a Swede with a cargo of timber from Dantzig.

Sixty-three inspections were made during the year by the Port Sanitary Inspector. It was not found necessary to serve any notices, either informal or statutory. Vessels carrying dirty cargoes, *e.g.*, whiting and China clay, were necessarily dirty while discharging, but were cleaned up immediately.

No arrangements exist for the receipt of wireless messages relating to the health of incoming vessels. The Fleetwood pilots wire the arrival of foreign vessels with sickness on board, and the Customs Officer at Glasson wires the arrival of all foreign trade vessels.

No cases of illness aboard ship were reported in 1925. No measures were taken for the destruction of rats. The Port of Lancaster is not an approved port under the Aliens Order, 1920.

District.	Population (estimated, 1925).	Birth Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.	Standardised Death Rate.	Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases (except Tuberculosis).	Death Rate from Measles.	Death Rate from Whooping Cough.	Death Rate from Diarrhoea (under two years).	Death Rate from Scarlet Fever.	Death Rate from Diphtheria.	Death Rate from Enteric Fever.
Accrington...	43,600	13.1	61.0	13.5	0.64	0.25	2.56	0.0	0.0	0.04	0.0	0.11	0.0
Ashton-under-Lyne	43,910	17.0	92.0	14.7	0.97	0.31	1.27	0.13	0.15	0.34	0.0	0.09	0.0
Batley ...	36,390	18.2	87.4	13.5	0.4	0.2	2.8	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.02	0.0	0.02
Chorley ...	31,670	17.3	103.0	12.4	0.66	0.25	1.95	0.34	0.47	0.28	0.0	0.06	0.0
Colne ...	25,250	13.5	93.0	12.8	0.75	0.119	2.29	0.237	0.119	0.19	0.0	0.039	0.0
Crewe ...	47,700	14.7	72.5	11.4	0.57	0.13	1.63	0.10	0.23	0.06	0.08	0.04	0.02
Darwen ...	38,850	14.0	119.0	14.4	0.64	0.17	3.37	0.41	0.10	0.10	0.0	0.05	0.0
Dewsbury ...	54,790	17.26	105.7	15.0	0.54	0.14	3.55	0.34	0.09	0.219	0.018	0.07	0.0
Eccles ...	45,960	17.2	68.0	11.7	0.80	0.04	2.04	0.06	0.13	0.04	0.04	0.0	0.02
Farnworth ...	29,030	17.2	80.0	12.4	0.78	0.24	2.54	0.2	0.10	0.30	0.0	0.03	0.0
Heywood ...	26,990	16.0	90.0	15.6	0.78	0.18	3.50	0.10	0.07	0.10	0.0	0.03	0.0
Keighley ...	41,920	14.9	81.0	13.9	0.85	0.28	2.4	0.23	0.09	0.04	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>40,140</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>0.396</b>	<b>0.198</b>	<b>0.322</b>	<b>0.241</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Leigh ...	46,910	17.8	99.0	14.8	0.85	0.25	3.26	0.02	0.27	0.12	0.02	0.06	0.02
Macclesfield	32,886	15.7	73.5	14.0	0.50	0.20	1.50	0.0	0.03	0.0	0.0	0.20	0.0
Middleton ...	28,860	13.3	95.0	14.1	0.48	0.41	0.24	0.10	0.17	0.21	0.06	0.03	0.0
Nelson ...	39,990	11.8	78.0	11.9	0.57	0.20	1.85	0.15	0.20	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.0
Radcliffe ...	25,270	14.3	63.0	14.3	0.63	0.15	0.12	0.07	0.23	0.03	0.0	0.03	0.0
Rawtenstall	28,960	14.9	87.0	13.0	0.72	0.17	1.80	0.058	0.058	0.10	0.029	0.029	0.0
Stalybridge	25,140	16.0	86.8	14.28	1.00	0.08	3.20	0.0	0.12	0.28	0.04	0.04	0.04







